Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.-21. (canceled)

22. (previously presented) The method of claim 55, wherein the specificity of each of the first and second binding reagents is different for the two states of the analyte compound.

23. (currently amended) The method of claim 22, further comprising the step of calculating ~~a combined test result, expressed as a~~ the ratio of the amounts of first binding agent/analyte compound/second binding agent complex formed in the seach of the reacting steps.

24. (currently amended) The method of claim 23, further comprising the step of comparing the ~~combined test result~~ calculated ratio to a standard ratio representative of the first or second state to determine in which state the sample exists.

25. (previously presented) The method of claim 24, wherein the analyte compound is a gonadotrophin.

26. (previously presented) The method of claim 25, wherein the analyte compound is follicle stimulating hormone.

27. (previously presented) The method of claim 22, wherein the analyte compound is a gonadotrophin.

28. (previously presented) The method of claim 27, wherein the analyte compound is follicle stimulating hormone.

29. (currently amended) The method of claim 55, further comprising the step of calculating ~~a combined test result, expressed as a~~ the ratio of the amounts of first binding agent/analyte compound /second binding agent complex formed in the each of the reacting steps.

30. (currently amended) The method of claim 29, further comprising the step of comparing the ~~combined test result~~ calculated ratio to a standard ratio representative of the first or second state to determine in which state the sample exists.

31. (previously presented) The method of claim 30, wherein the analyte compound is a gonadotrophin.

32. (previously presented) The method of claim 31, wherein the analyte compound is follicle stimulating hormone,

33. (previously presented) The method of claim 55, wherein the analyte compound is a gonadotrophin.

34. (previously presented) The method of claim 33, wherein the analyte compound is follicle stimulating hormone.

35. (previously presented) The method according to claim 55, wherein the first and second specific binding agents are antibodies.

36. (previously presented) The method according to claim 35, wherein each binding agent is a monoclonal antibody.

37. (previously presented) The method of claim 35, wherein the specificity of each of the first and second binding reagents is different for the two states of the analyte compound.

38. (currently amended) The method of claim 37, further comprising the step of calculating ~~a combined test result, expressed as a~~ the ratio of the amounts of first binding agent/analyte compound/second binding agent complex formed in the each of the reacting steps.

39. (currently amended) The method of claim 38, further comprising the step of comparing the ~~combined test result~~ calculated ratio to a standard ratio representative of the first or second state to determine in which state the sample exists.

40. (previously presented) The method of claim 39, wherein the analyte compound is a gonadotrophin.

41. (previously presented) The method of claim 40, wherein the analyte compound is follicle stimulating hormone.

42. (previously presented) The method of claim 35, wherein the analyte compound is a gonadotrophin.

43. (previously presented) The method of claim 42, wherein the analyte compound is follicle stimulating hormone.

44. (previously presented) The method of claim 55, wherein in the first reacting step, the sample is incubated with a solid phase on which is immobilized the first binding agent, and thereafter, following removal of unbound analyte compound, the solid phase is incubated with the second binding agent.

45. (previously presented) The method of claim 44, wherein in the second reacting step, the sample is substantially simultaneously incubated with a solid phase to which the first binding reagent is immobilized and with the second binding agent in solution or suspension.

46. (previously presented) The method of claim 55, wherein in the second reacting step, the sample is substantially simultaneously incubated with a solid phase to which the first binding reagent is immobilized and with the second binding agent in solution or suspension.

47. (previously presented) The method of claim 55, wherein the first or second binding agent is labeled with a label selected from the group consisting of enzymes, fluorescent labels, radiolabels and direct particulate labels.

48. (previously presented) The method of claim 55, wherein one of the first or second binding agents comprises an anti-FSH antibody expressed by hybridoma cell line ECACC 00032004.

49. (previously presented) The method of claim 55, wherein one of the first or second binding agents comprises an anti-FSH antibody expressed by hybridoma cell line ECACC 00032005.

50. (previously presented) The method of claim 55, wherein one of the first or second binding agents comprises an anti-FSH antibody expressed by hybridoma cell line ECACC 00032004 and the other comprises an anti-FSH antibody expressed by hybridoma cell line ECACC 00032005.

51 – 54. (canceled)

55. (previously presented) A method, comprising:

(a) providing a sample obtained from a human female, the sample comprising an analyte compound, the analyte compound being present in at least two different states, wherein a relative abundance of the two states of the analyte compound is related to the menopausal status of the female;

(b) providing a first and a second binding agent, wherein the specificity of at least one of the binding agents for the analyte compound is different for the two states of the analyte compound in the sample;

(c) reacting a first portion of the sample with the first binding agent to form a first binding agent/analyte compound complex and subsequently reacting the first binding agent/analyte compound complex with the second binding agent to form a first binding agent/analyte compound/second binding agent complex;

(d) reacting a second portion of the sample substantially simultaneously with the first binding agent and the second binding agent to form a first binding agent/analyte compound/second binding agent complex;

(e) determining the amount of first binding agent/analyte compound/second binding agent complex formed in each reacting step; and

(f) determining the menopausal status of the human female based at least in part on the relative amounts of first binding agent/analyte compound/second binding agent complex formed in each reacting step, which are indicative of the relative abundance of the two states of the analyte compound.